



WA seafood industry recognises excellence in spite of challenges

Last night's 2013 Western Australian Seafood Industry Awards proudly showcased some of the sector's best and brightest and also drew attention to a number of challenges facing the industry.

The Awards event, recognising excellence in the WA seafood industry, was held at Incontro Restaurant in South Perth and opened by Minister for Fisheries Hon Troy Buswell in front of an audience of industry participants and representatives of various stakeholder groups.

WA Fishing Industry Council (WAFIC) Chairman, Mr Brad Adams said the winners in each of the 11 award categories epitomised the professionalism and quality inherent in much of the local industry.

"I am impressed at the scope and diversity of all of this year's nominees. They reflect an adaptive, innovative and environmentally responsible Western Australian primary industry - an industry of which we can all be proud," Mr Adams said.

"The Awards are an important event in the seafood industry calendar and a great opportunity to celebrate and acknowledge the achievements of so many in our industry."

"These achievements often come in spite of significant challenges such as increasing red tape and environmental regulation, the high Australian dollar and the escalating cost of living and doing business in WA - challenges that sometimes test our industry's ability to thrive."

"The Western Australian seafood industry is important to our State in terms of employment, the wider economy and perhaps most significantly, as a fantastic example of how Western Australia can deliver a world-class, sustainable food industry."

"For those reasons, WAFIC is proud to have again hosted last night's celebration of the excellence so prevalent in the Western Australian seafood industry," Mr Adams concluded.

For further information regarding the awards, please contact:

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2013 Award Winners

Seafood Restaurant Award (sponsored by Mandurah Licensed Fisherman's Association)
Awarded to Incontro Restaurant

Fish & Chips Award (sponsored by Two Oceans Seafoods)
Awarded to Sweetlips

Seafood Industry Producer Award (sponsored by Salters Boats)
Awarded to Marine Produce Australia – Cone Bay Ocean Barramundi
Commendation – OneSea Pty Ltd

Seafood Business (Large) Award (sponsored by Woolworths)
Awarded to Endeavour Foods

Seafood Business (Small) Award (sponsored by Bailey's Marine Fuels)
Awarded to Southern Wild Abalone

Research Development & Extension Award (sponsored by Woodside)
Awarded to Dr Janet Howieson
Commendation – Ocean Grown Abalone Pty Ltd

Environment Award (sponsored by OceanWatch Australia)
Awarded to Department of Fisheries Western Australia

People Development Award (sponsored by Challenger Institute of Technology)
Awarded to Marine & Aquaculture Consultancy Services

Seafood Industry Promotion Award (sponsored by Fisheries WA)
Awarded to Austral Fisheries
Commendation – Jenny Shaw (Seeing Change Project)

Young Achievers Award (sponsored by Taylor Marine)
Awarded to John Cordin

Michael Kailis Leadership Award (sponsored by MG Kailis)
Awarded to John Cole

2013 Western Australian Seafood Industry Awards background

- The event was supported by a number of sponsors including; Westpac Banking Corporation (Gold event sponsor), Fisheries Research & Development Corporation (Silver event sponsor), as well as sponsors for each of the individual awards and seafood contributor sponsors.
- Nominations were received in June and winners were selected by a panel of judges comprising; food consultant and columnist Margaret Johnson, former Fisheries WA Chief Executive Officer, Dr Peter Rogers and Westpac Banking Corporation's Tony Collins.
- Award event attendees enjoyed an array of fresh, local and sustainably caught Australian seafood kindly donated by sponsors including; BellBuoy Seafoods, Fremantle Octopus, Blue Lagoon Mussels, Austral Fisheries, Larmer's Oysters, Cone Bay Barramundi, Shark Bay Wild, Fremantle Sardine Company and Southern Wild Abalone.
- Winners of each category proceed to the national Awards competition, the 7th Australian Seafood Industry Awards to be held in Port Lincoln, South Australia in late October in conjunction with the Seafood Directions 2013 conference